

From organizing events with her church to her civic involvement within her community, wherever Virginia goes, you know that she is on a mission to serve, and she will not be deterred in that mission.

Truly, she is a community-driven woman. I cannot overstate her rock-ribbed conservatism and how she has always espoused, promoted, and shared both the values and principles upon which our constitutional republic was founded.

The simple truth is that we need more Virginia Smiths in this world.

Her work as chairwoman and as a proud member of the Stokes County community has helped lay a foundation upon which our future leaders, the young men and women of today, can grow and thrive.

Mr. Speaker, as Virginia enters this new and exciting chapter of her life, may she know that she has left an indelible mark upon the lives of so many people, me included. I am confident she will continue to do so.

May God continue to bless her and her family in the days ahead.

#### REASONABLE RAISING OF DEBT CEILING

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, with \$31.4 trillion in national debt, House Republicans are committed to finding a solution that is reasonable, sensible, and responsible regarding raising the debt ceiling.

President Biden would be irresponsible not to negotiate. We must finally address Washington's reckless government spending if we want to put America on a better fiscal path.

After 2 years of reckless deficit spending, the Biden administration is refusing to negotiate with Republicans to protect taxpayers and solve our Nation's debt crisis.

Democrats accelerated spending following the last massive debt limit increase. After passing the largest debt limit increase in American history, it took Democrats only a little over a year to max out the Federal Government's credit card again.

Democrats outspent record-high revenue. Despite record-high revenues from the Republican-passed Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Federal spending has continued to balloon, increasing by \$10 trillion over the last 2 years, a record for a new President.

There is a bipartisan path forward. Instead of refusing to negotiate, Democrats need to join Republicans in crafting a plan that protects taxpayers. All eight major spending reforms since 1985 have been attached to debt ceiling legislation.

We must be, again, as Republicans say, reasonable, sensible, and responsible regarding raising the debt ceiling. We call on President Biden and the Democrats to join us in this effort.

#### CELEBRATING WIND RIVER TRANSFER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. PEREZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to be a voice for my rural community and celebrate the passage of the Wind River Administrative Site Conveyance Act.

Before being sworn into Congress, I acted with my predecessor, JAIME HERERA BEUTLER, Senator CANTWELL, and members of the Skamania County Commission to pass the Wind River Administrative Site Conveyance Act in the fiscal year 2023 spending bill.

As a Skamania County resident, I know that only 1.8 percent of our land is fully taxable for generating necessary revenue for community services. The Wind River Administrative Site Conveyance Act transfers 24 acres back into the county land base and increases opportunity for small businesses in our community.

I thank my predecessor, JAIME HERERA BEUTLER, and Senator CANTWELL for leading this effort. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass similarly important legislation.

#### RECOGNIZING REPAIR CLARK COUNTY

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to be a voice for my community and share with you the importance of Repair Clark County.

Repair Clark County is a nonprofit organization that rejects the premise that when things break, we just throw them out, that we are helpless consumers reliant on an endless cycle of cheap goods.

I was lucky to attend one of their events on January 21, and I saw a little girl light up when her favorite night-light was fixed instead of being thrown away. What an amazing gift to teach this child that we can have a relationship of stewardship with our belongings, not just consumerism.

These volunteers uphold our values of stewardship and self-sufficiency because, in America, DIY is in our DNA.

I thank Terra Heilman, the head of Repair Clark County, for spearheading this effort.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to work on Federal legislation that ensures all consumers have the right and the ability to maintain and fix their own stuff.

#### RECOGNIZING IURBAN TEEN

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the iUrban Teen organization for creating an incredibly diverse talent pipeline in my district.

iUrban Teen provides skills training for teens and young adults and gives them access to career pathways and alternatives that they need to be successful and have more opportunities.

For example, the Future Teachers Pathway program brings together Vancouver Public Schools, Washington State University Vancouver, and Clark College to mentor students and give them the training they need to succeed in their chosen career paths.

This is so critical for young people who face challenges and gives them the support they deserve in their efforts to

become critical members of our community.

For the past 13 years, iUrban Teen has hosted a breakfast on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. I was honored to attend their event.

I thank the iUrban Teen team for bridging the gap for students and inspiring all of us to keep working for change.

#### HONORING MIKHAIL PAVENKO

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mikhail Pavenko, a resident of Vancouver, Washington.

In 1996, Mikhail emigrated from Ukraine to Vancouver, and he has proudly worked as a lineman for the Clark County Public Utilities since 2014, literally keeping the lights on in my district.

Mr. Pavenko has recently taken on a new role. Since the conflict between Ukraine and Russia began, he has returned to Ukraine more than a dozen times to serve as a volunteer military chaplain.

Mikhail is and continues to be a beacon of light for many during times of untold suffering. He inspires Ukrainians on the front line to keep the faith and keep up the fight, and he simultaneously reminds all of us that democracy is worth fighting for.

I cannot thank Mr. Pavenko enough for his service to the people of Ukraine as they stand together against authoritarianism.

#### CONGRATULATING THE COLUMBIA RIVER RAPIDS GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give a big shout-out to the Columbia River Rapids girls volleyball team. They are doing an incredible job. I am so excited to share this on the House floor.

The Rapids girls volleyball team won the 2A State title in three sets, finishing an amazing season for the volleyball team. The entire tournament, they only lost one set. What makes this even more notable is they were a No. 6 seed, and they defeated three higher seeds to attain this title.

These incredible young women played an impressive season and have made me and our whole community very proud.

Congratulations to the Columbia River Rapids girls volleyball team on their amazing accomplishments. I am so excited to see what they will do next season.

#### HONORING BROTHER FRED WOLFE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CARL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of a dear friend of mine, Brother Fred Wolfe.

Fred Hartwell Wolfe was born December 5, 1936, in Rock Hill, South Carolina, and he passed away on January 3, 2021. I was standing on this very floor being sworn in the moment they let me know he had passed away.